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IT'S POSITIVELY BEWILDERING.

Too Much of the World's Fair For One Pair of Eyes or One Pair of Legs. [Special Correspondence.]

CHICAGO, March 9.—The nearer we get to the 1st of May the stronger is our conviction of the utter inability of the human brain to grasp the magnitude of the World's fair and its adjuncts, and the more we write about it, the more we talk about it, the more we interview about it, the more confused and bewildered we get. As for the men who have the work to do, the chiefs of the entire enterprise and the directing minds of the hundred and one departments, it is a wonder that they have any mind left at all. One of them said the other evening that his head felt as though it was only a network of cobwebs, and that when night came the doings of the day seemed like a dream.

During a single hour of the day in question no less than 40 cards had been brought to him, 15 important questions relating to weighty matters, and which required prompt consideration, reached his desk through the circumscription bureau, while the boy in attendance at the telephone kept plying him with queries from people down town who were "holding the wire" so that they might be assured of an immediate answer. "That in a greater or lesser degree," said he, "is the kind of experience some of us have to go through day in and day out, and 10 hours a day at that." No wonder he felt as though his brains had gone out and cobwebs had come in.

And there will be cobwebs in the craniums of many of our guests next year if they try to do too much in the sight-seeing line. A few months ago we thought we knew all about it. We spread out upon our desk a birdseye view of the grounds, a veritable work of art, by the way, with its buildings in red and blue and white and lavender, and its gold mounted domes and its beautiful walks, and we figured out how easy it would be to get from the Manufacturers building to the Administration building, and thence over to the Woman's temple, and thence to the rendezvous of the little ones, and around the Electrical building and over the bridge to Uncle Sam's headquarters, and so on until all the main structures of the White City had been covered, and we could go over to our own state building, which ever one it happened to be, and take a rest.

It looked very simple on paper and without any figures to start one thinking, but it doesn't look so simple to the people whose business now compels them to make the rounds through snow up to their ankles, nor will it look so simple to Millionaire Jones of New York and Farmer Brown of Kansas when they start in on their sight-seeing expedition next summer. It will behoove them, unless their visiting be prolonged into weeks or months, to make up their minds beforehand what they propose to see and then to make sure that they see it.

If they expect to take in anything and everything, to start out at the farthest end of the Midway pleasure and to continue to the very extremity of the fair grounds proper, making a mental picture of one attraction after another and storing their minds with information concerning the same, they will find out before they get back home that they have tried to do too much, and that, like the old man in the fable who tried to please everybody and succeeded in pleasing nobody and losing his donkey in the bargain, their visit to the great World's show has not been productive of the good results that might have accrued from a more concentrated and systematic method of exploration among its wonders.

Don't understand me as suggesting that there is too much to the World's fair. One cannot have too much of a good thing, as the boy said when remonstrated with for filling himself up to his very neck with mince pie. It was intended to be a big thing. The master minds that are responsible for the enterprise as it stands today started out to make it the biggest thing that the world had ever seen, so big that when, in days to come, the next World's fair of the North American continent is captured by New York or Boston or Philadelphia or San Francisco or some big place that just now is only a barren plain, its projectors will find that they have all they can do, and perhaps more than they can do, to equal, to say nothing of eclipsing, the record of the Windy City. And certainly they have succeeded.

There is something that will appeal in a personal sense to every woman and man that enters the grounds, whether she or he be in search of amusement, of enlightenment or of instruction. Students of science or art or philosophy or education or medicine, or hundreds of other things, will find each a department in which they can linger for hours and go away feeling all the better for having done it. But the individual that attempts to take it all in without any fixed or definite motive beyond a desire to boast afterward that he has "seen it all" will be the one that in reality has seen the least, and who will be the first to complain that there is "too much of it." It is not a one man show. No one pair of legs, no one pair of eyes, is going to take in the ramifications of Jackson park from center to circumference. That may be accepted as gospel.

And then there are the outside attractions—that is to say, the objects of interest that are part and parcel of the business end of the enterprise, features that have been granted space in fair territory, but will be permitted to charge a fee for admission independent of the half dollar turned over for admission to the park grounds. The number of these is legion. In fact, there is one or more for every day from the first of May to the last of October. Monster wheels, or rather a monster wheel; a big theatrical spectacle, novel in design and daring in conception; colonies of Indians and Eskimos and Cingalese; reproductions of streets in Cairo, Mohammedan mosques and Irish villages—something or other from people of all lands and of all tongues. How are we to see it all? HENRY M. HUME.

SURPRISES OF SPRING

NUMEROUS NOVELTIES DISPLAYED IN THE NEW YORK SHOPS.

Oliver Harper Describes Some New Wash Fabrics That Are Quite as Beautiful as Silk—Waives and Jackets That Will Harmonize With Any Gown.

[Special Correspondence.] NEW YORK, March 9.—Pretty and sensible most of the spring dresses seem to be, and made with an eye to economy and ease in the matter of ironing are those intended for "wash dresses." Many persons prefer light silks to wash goods, no matter how fine and pretty, but there is much to be said in favor of the sweet and clean freshness of a gown that can be washed every week.

I notice among the useful things in many places white sacks to wear with colored skirts. They are yoked and belted in, the yokes and belts being of embroidery and the frill being hem-



DAINTY EVERYDAY GOWNS.

stitched neatly. Some of them have a full jabot of simple lace and others jabots of plaid silk or a profusion of ribbons. Some, again, are all white, with only tucks for trimming, made in clusters—three very narrow and one wide. They will probably be much liked for ordinary wear and will make a cool costume even when worn with a woolen skirt.

Another convenient and very pretty style for the coming season, and indeed for the present, is a full waist of plaid surah, opening on one side, where there is a knife plaited ruffle, with 12 small buttons by way of ornament. It joins the skirt under a wide belt of surah. The skirt may have a plain, flat band or a ruffle of plaid surah, or it need not have any trimming. The sleeves may be of surah or of other material, as the taste of the wearer may dictate. These separate waists are most convenient, and they are very dainty and youthful, and, above all, they are comfortable.

Another pretty fancy is to have a jacket of black silk, faille or taffeta if preferred, or indeed any silk. The jacket has a reverse collar, not very pronounced, and a short postilion in the back. A full vest, collar and belt are made of some light and becoming shade of silk fuffed over the chest by plaits at the top and gathered at the bottom. The sleeves can be made of the same silk, or of material like the skirt, or of some other color. The jacket is outlined with a narrow bead trimming and should be of colors that would harmonize with any skirt. Black and pale blue, pink or tan would be the best. The vest could be made separate, and in that manner give greater variety to costumes, which is a desirable consideration not only because of its economy, but for the pleasant relief from monotony it affords.

Wash fabrics are so beautiful, so fine and of such lovely colors that it is a question which are to be favorites for summer wear, the light silks and such fabrics or the different cottons. I saw recently a gray chambray that was certainly as beautiful as any silk could be, having a rare luster which made it changeable in the shades of gray. This was trimmed with cream colored point de gene laid on flat, with what would be the bottom of the lace turned to the top and stitched down so that it looked like a raised pattern on the goods. The yoke was of lace over the chambray. The sleeves had the lower part of lace and the upper of the chambray. The skirt was round and full and gathered to a belt. There was a ribbon sash of cream satin tied in front in loops, the ends reaching nearly to the bottom.



SPRING WASH DRESSES.

Another very dainty gown was of plaid gingham, the colors being gray, green, brown and black, on a very pale gray-blue ground. The skirt was quite plain, with the fullness thrown to the back. The waist was a plain Spencer, with a tiny figaro and sleeves of the same plaid, the only combination being a girdle of black velvet, which was removable.

The gingham is so soft and silky that one would think them at least half silk. They are made of sea island cotton treated in a new way. The colorings are the most exquisite ever shown in such goods. There are some plaid gingham where the only pattern visible is that made by one fine thread crossing another. OLIVER HARPER.

GUARDIANSHIP OF CHILDREN.

Its Legal and Moral Aspects—The Laws of Various States. [Copyright, 1900, by American Press Association.]

There are several kinds of guardians of minors recognized by the law. Firstly, there are the parents, who are the natural guardians of the children; then other near relatives who may take charge of a child when its parents die, and who may come to be recognized as the legal guardians; then there are guardians whom the father or mother may appoint by will to have charge of the person or property, or both, of a child, or if such appointment has not been made it will be made by the surrogate where a certain amount of property is concerned, and there are temporary guardians appointed by order of a court or judge in a legal proceeding to represent some one who is too young to appear in person and to look after his interests.

A guardian who has the personal care of a child is called the guardian of the person, and one who has charge of the property is the guardian of the estate. The court may separate the two guardianships and appoint different guardians.

The duty of the guardian is to manage the affairs and property of his ward to the best of his ability, and when the term of the guardianship expires—by the infant attaining his majority or otherwise—to give an account of his administration and of all property he has had in his hands.

"Minors" or "infants" are all persons under the age of 21 (except that in a few of the states women are of age at 18), but there is a distinction made at 14. An infant over the age of 14 can have a voice in choosing his guardian and can in some cases sue or be sued in his own name.

When there are notices or papers of any kind to be served upon the parties to a legal proceeding, the infants must be served as well as others, and in the case of infants under 14 two copies of each paper must be served, one upon the parent or guardian and one personally upon the child itself. Even in the case of a child too young not only to understand or to read, but even to notice the paper, this double service must be made and a copy of the paper put into its hands, a rule which strikes one as amusing, but the theory is that the younger the child the more protection it needs.

There is certainly still a degree of injustice to women in the laws relating to the control of their children and the appointment of guardians for them in the greater power given to the father, although the children's interests are as safe, frequently safer, in the hands of the mother than of the father.

In a few of the states—in Iowa, for example—the father and mother are joint natural guardians, and upon the death of one the other becomes sole guardian. Generally, however, the father may appoint by will any one whom he chooses to be guardian of the child, not only of the property which, when the property comes from the father, does not seem unreasonable, but of the person as well.

These appointments, however, may be set aside by the surrogate, and an opportunity is given to the mother or other friends of the child to petition the court to appoint some one else. If proof can be brought that the person named is not a suitable guardian, the judge will disregard the appointment and make another.

When an infant is made a party to any litigation or has an interest in the settlement of an estate, a special guardian must be appointed by the court in which the case is being tried, or by the surrogate, to represent his or her interest. This person is sometimes called the "next friend." In actions in the surrogate's court he is called the "special guardian," and in the supreme court and other courts the "guardian ad litem" (guardian in respect to the strife). His authority and duties do not extend beyond the particular matter as to which he is appointed, and when that is settled they are at an end. It is usual, though it may not be always necessary, to appoint a lawyer.

If the parents are interested in any way in the same matter, neither of them can be this guardian ad litem, nor can any one else who is a party, nor any one who is acting as attorney for any of them. It must be some one who has no interest of any kind opposed to that of the infant whom he represents.

In this matter of the appointment of guardians by law there is apt to be some misunderstanding. A mother is very likely to feel aggrieved that any one but herself or some one of her choosing should be the child's guardian and to regard it as a caprice and a piece of injustice on the part of the law, because no one could have the child's interests more at heart than his mother.

This is true in an overwhelming majority of cases, but what the law has in view here is justice to the child. There are such things as parents who would choose their own advantage before their children's where interests clashed, and the law or the judges cannot make the intimate personal acquaintance of each parent. Keeping in mind the possible contingency, the best that can be done is to appoint some one who will have no temptation to do anything but his best for the infant.

There may be cases in which the parent has no interest opposed to that of the child, and in which he can act as the guardian ad litem, as in a recent action where a boy had been injured on a railroad and the father appeared and sued the company.

The theory of the law in regard to minors is that the child is an individual, with rights of his own in which he is to be protected, even against his parents if necessary, and that it is the duty of the community of which he forms part to so protect him.

It is pointed out by Herbert Spencer, in some recently published essays on "Justice," that this view marks an immense advance in civilization from the state of society in which parents had such absolute control of their children that they could sell them or even kill them without accounting to anybody. M. HELEN FRASER LOVETT.

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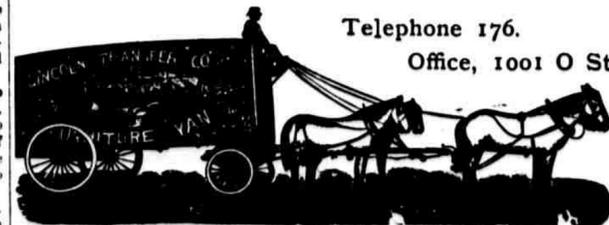
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